

REMARKS

Applicants are amending their claims in order to facilitate proceedings in connection with the above-identified application. Specifically, Applicants are incorporating the subject matter of claim 5 into claim 1; in light thereof, Applicants are canceling claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer, and are amending dependencies of claims 6 and 24. Moreover, Applicants are setting forth the subject matter of previously considered claims 26 and 30 in independent form, respectively as new claims 31 and 32. In light of amendments to claim 1, Applicants are retaining claims 26 and 30, each dependent on claim 1.

The Examiner is thanked for the indicated allowance of previously considered claim 8-23, 28 and 29.

In addition, the Examiner is thanked for the indication that the subject matter of claims 5, 6, 24, 26 and 30 would be allowable if set forth in independent form. The subject matter of claim 5 has been incorporated into claim 1, whereby claim 1 now recites the subject matter of previously considered claim 5, in independent form. In view thereof, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, and all claims dependent thereon (that is, claims 2-4, 6, 7, 24-27 and 30), should also be allowed. Moreover, in light of setting forth the subject matter of previously considered claims 26 and 30 in independent form, respectively as new claims 31 and 32, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 31 and 32 should also be allowed.

The rejection of claims 1-4, 7, 25 and 27 on prior art grounds, as set forth in Items 4-6 on pages 3-5 of the Office Action mailed November 30, 2005, is noted. In view of present amendments to the claims, and further in view of the indication of

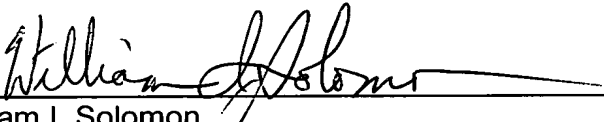
allowable subject matter in the Office Action mailed November 30, 2005 (specifically, indication of allowable subject matter of claim 5, which has now been incorporated into claim 1), it is respectfully submitted that the prior art rejections are clearly moot and have been overcome by the present amendments, and further discussion of the prior art rejections is necessary.

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, reconsideration and allowance of all claims remaining in the application are respectfully requested.

Applicants request any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper be charged to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (case 1374.43296X00), and credit any excess payment of fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

By 
William I. Solomon
Registration No. 28,665

WIS/ksh
1300 N. Seventeenth Street
Suite 1800
Arlington, VA 22209
Tel.: 703-312-6600
Fax.: 703-312-6666